

It's outrageous that Sinclair Broadcasting is forcing its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It's a violation of campaign laws, and it is a misuse of the public airwaves, which Sinclair currently uses free of charge. That license requires Sinclair, by law, to serve the public interest, but what Sinclair is doing is serving its OWN interests instead. I believe this is only happening because Sinclair hopes to influence the outcome of the election, airing an anti-Kerry show without giving a fair and balanced view by airing a pro-Kerry documentary like Going Upriver.

A situation like this only shows the dangers of media consolidation. When large companies control the airwaves, and when there is less competition to the views of the owners of those large companies, messages can be slanted to pursue a particular political agenda. This isn't democracy. It's brainwashing. I believe the FCC should watch for this danger to our freedom. We have the right to expect our government to ensure that smaller stations exist so we get to see people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.